

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 4, 7 and 9 have been canceled herewith, in light of the amendment of Claims 1 and 5. Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8 and 10 are now in the case.

Claim 1 has been amended to replace the recitation of cationic metal ions with a Markush of inorganic salts that are used with the AMC component. Basis is at page 5, l. 28-page 6, l. 1. Claim 5 has been amended to remove the recitation of carboxyl substituents on the AMC. Basis is in the claim as originally presented. These amendments add no new matter, and entry is requested.

FORMAL MATTERS

For the record, there are no objections or rejections under §112 outstanding.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35USC102

Claims 1-10 stand rejected over U.S. 6, 384,011, for reasons of record at pages 2-3 of the Office Action.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections on this basis, to the extent they may apply to the claims as amended herewith.

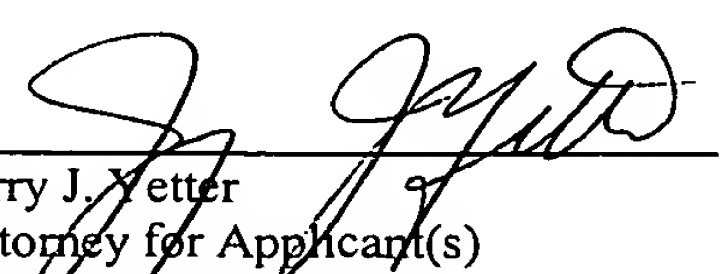
With regard to the rejections of Claims 1-3, it is submitted that nothing in '011 teaches or suggests compositions comprising the AMC and the recited Markush group of metal salts, as now recited in Claim 1 (and claims depending therefrom). Accordingly, it is submitted that the rejections under §102 should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

With regard to the rejections of Claims 5, 6, 8 and 10 it is submitted that nothing in '011 teaches or suggests the preparation or use of AMC's comprising sulphonyl or phosphonyl substituents, as now recited in Claim 5 (and claims depending therefrom), in detergent compositions. Accordingly, it is submitted that the rejections under §102 should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

In light of the foregoing amendments and arguments, early and favorable action in the case is requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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